

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INT-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 DODE-00 PA-03

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SCEM-02 DRC-01 /106 W

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R 111355Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1705

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT: CANADIAN OIL MEASURES

1. IN SHORT EDITORIAL MONTREAL GAZETTE OF SEPTEMBER 11 SUPPORTS OTTAWA'S PROPOSAL TO EXTEND PIPELINE TO MONTREAL AS ESSENTIALLY SOUND IN VIEW OF UNCERTAIN FOREIGN SUPPLIES AND SHARP INTERNATIONAL PRICE INCREASES. GAZETTE SAYS QUEBEC PREMIER UNDERSTANDABLY UNHAPPY BECAUSE HE WAS NOT CONSULTED, AND THAT IT DOUBTFUL WHETHER FEDERAL DECISION WILL LEAD QUEBEC TO RECONSIDER ITS SUPERTANKER PORT PLANS. EDITORIAL, HOWEVER, DEPLORES "AD HOCERY" NATURE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS ON SUCH IMPORTANT MATTER.

2. IN THOUGHTFUL COLUMN BY JOHN MEYER IN GAZETTE OF SAME DATE, POINT IS MADE THAT IT IS EASY TO MAKE CASE FOR PIPELINE EXTENSION TO MONTREAL. HOWEVER, HE SAYS, IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSAL AND THE LOGISTICS AND ECONOMICS OF OIL ARE INFINITELY MORE COMPLICATED THAN THEY HAVE BEEN MADE TO APPEAR. HE ARGUES LONGER TERM CONSEQUENCES AND QUESTIONS WHETHER CANADIANS CAN EXPECT AMERICANS, DENIED CANADIAN OIL, TO CONTINUE TO GIVE

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ACCESS TO COMPETITIVE CANADIAN PRODUCTS MADE AT LEAST

IN PART FROM ENERGY CANADA HAS KEPT AT HOME.
INTERNATIONALLY, MEYER CALLS FOR POOLING RESOURCES,
ESTABLISHING COMMON FRONT TOWARDS MIDDLE EAST SUPPLIERS,
AND NOT REPEAT NOT BEING DIVIDED BY PURSUIT OF
INDIVIDUAL PRESERVATION. IN CLOSING, MEYER URGES
DETAILED EXPLORATION OF PARAMETERS OF CONTINENTAL
ENERGY POLICY BEFORE MAKING IRREVOCABLE COMMITMENT TO
CANADA-ONLY OIL POLICY.
SCHMIDT

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